

zone. Surface under a lens presenting a roughish appearance, caused by granules elongated in the direction of lines of growth. Spire depressed, slightly convex; apex obtuse. Whorls 4, gradually widening, the last depressed; deeply and abruptly descending to the aperture, rounded at the periphery, very strongly constricted behind the peristome. Aperture very oblique, nearly circular; lip narrowly expanded, flattened, white, upper and lower margins continuous across the parietal wall, the basal margin slightly thickened within. Umbilicus deep, rather narrow.

Height 3, diam. 7 mill.

Habitat New Guinea.

This species is allied to *H. tuckeri* Pfr., but may readily be distinguished from that species by the continuous peristome, more oblique aperture and deeper constriction of the whorl behind the lip.

The type specimen was received from Mr. GEO. W. DEAN, of Kent, Ohio, to whom it was presented by the sons of WM. DENTON, a devoted naturalist who lost his life while pursuing his researches in the interior of New Guinea.

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#### NOTE ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF *HELICINA OCCULTA*.

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BY CHARLES R. KEYES.

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This operculate land shell was first described in 1831, by Say, from fossil specimens; and it has been only quite recently that living examples have been found. The species is a characteristic fossil of the loess (post-pleiocene) of the Upper Mississippi Valley; and is widely distributed over this region. It is found abundantly in the post-pleiocene deposits of central and eastern Iowa and portions of Illinois, while it occurs less plentifully in similar depositions along the Missouri river. Like the large majority of loess fossils of the region this form is strikingly depauperate, evidencing, as first pointed out by Megee and Call,\* a great diminution of vitality, doubtless due, in great part at least, to a much lower temperature than at present. All the shells from the loess present a peculiar chalky whiteness which renders them easily distinguished from "dead" shells of the same species still living. More than thirty species of land and fresh-water mollusca are now known from this deposit in Iowa; and

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\* American Jour. Sci., Vol. xxiv, Sept., 1882.

although the greater portion of these forms continue to flourish throughout the region, some have become extinct within the limits of the State, and occur living only in distant localities; while several others are known only as fossils. To the last class, *Helicina occulta* Say, was, until very recently, thought to belong.

The first discovery of *Helicina occulta* living, was a few years ago, in the vicinity of Iowa City, where it was found in great abundance. Its distribution is very peculiar and very limited in extent. The locality is a steep hill-side on the south bank of Turkey Creek, four miles north of the town; and is covered with a dense growth of ferns and other plants. Here, confined within an area scarcely forty yards in extent, this little species occurs so abundantly that several hundred have been collected in a very short time. Beyond this secluded spot not a single specimen has been found living in the vicinity.\* A similar limited locality in which this species flourishes in great numbers is in Hardin County, Iowa. It is also reported from South Pittsburg, Tennessee.† The form is now recorded from Winona, Minnesota, where it was found by Mr. J. M. Holzinger, who has kindly sent specimens for examination. Its station is in all respects\* similar to the Iowa City locality. It thus appears very probable that a careful search in favorable situations will disclose the presence of this interesting little gasteropod in numerous places throughout northeastern Iowa and the adjoining parts of contiguous States. The region referred to is topographically well adapted for the occurrence of this species, but its peculiar and strictly-local distribution tends to render its detection extremely difficult.

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#### GENERAL NOTES.

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*SPHERIUM CUBENSE* Prime has been found on the shores of Lake Monroe, Florida, very rare.—*Berlin H. Wright.*

*BULIMULUS HEMPHILLI* Wright is a thinner shell than *B. Marielinus* Poey, and more corpulent, while the revolving bands are redder, finer, and continuous in the last-named species. The substance of the shell of *B. Marielinus* is white, while that of *B. Hemphilli* is light-amber colored.—*Berlin H. Wright.*

*LIMAX* eaten by Salamanders. In the stomach of a specimen of the abundant little red Salamander *Plethodon erythronotus* (Green)

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\* Keyes: Annotated Catalogue Mollusca Iowa,—Bull. Essex Institute, Vol. xx.

† Call: Bull. Washburn College, Vol. II, p. 16, 1887.